



State Representative Robert Heagney

Dear Friends,

It continues to be an honor and a pleasure to serve as your state representative for Simsbury in the Connecticut General Assembly. During this past session of the legislature, I have continued to keep the families and residents of the 16th District as my top priority.

This Annual Report includes information about some of the issues that the legislature addressed during the 2006 session.

This was a particularly successful session with Simsbury receiving almost \$1 million dollars in new state funding.

As always, if you have any comments, questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Representative Heagney at work in the Hall of the House of Representatives.

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State Representative
ROBERT HEAGNEY
Proudly Serving the 16th District
Simsbury ★ Connecticut

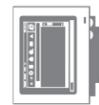


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2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative
ROBERT HEAGNEY
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Simsbury ★ Connecticut



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2006 Annual Legislative Report



The State Budget

This year I continued my service on the Education, Higher Education, and Banks Committees. The General Assembly approved a \$16 billion state budget that represented a compromise between legislative Democrats and Governor M. Jodi Rell and legislative Republicans.

The budget includes a phased-out repeal of the corporate surcharge tax of 20%, which many of my colleagues and I have fought for since the beginning of the legislative session. It also includes a number of tax cuts for business which will help improve the economy and increase jobs in the state, such as a phase out of the property tax on machinery and equipment.

We also increased deposits in the Rainy Day Fund from the Democrats' proposed \$39 million to \$190 million, which boosts the fund to \$800 million. The budget deal also fully funds the Teachers' Pension Fund, which has been repeatedly shortchanged by majority Democrats to fuel other spending projects. The final budget is also under the constitutionally mandated spending cap in both years.

Eminent Domain

The Kelo v. New London case highlighted the need for reform of the state's eminent domain laws. I worked this session to prevent the seizure of land and homes for use by private developers, however legislative Democrats insisted on continuing to "study" the issue for a year. As a result, no meaningful reform has been made to prevent such seizures from taking place.

In-State Tuition for "A Better Chance" Students

After four years of work, I was pleased to win final approval this session for bill that allows students who participate in "A Better Chance" or similar programs to qualify for in-state tuition at UConn, Connecticut State Universities, and community technical colleges if they attended three years and graduated from a Connecticut public school.

The "A Better Chance" program gives impoverished minority students from out of state the opportunity to attend school here in a different environment.

Increased Education Funds for Simsbury

I was pleased this year to be able to have successfully worked for a substantial increase in state education aid. Last year, the town of Simsbury received \$2,377,723 in education aid. This year, under the budget, Simsbury will receive \$3,215,224. This represents an increase of \$837,501, which will be the largest increase in state education aid Simsbury has ever received. Simsbury will receive \$153,274 in additional grants in other categories for a total increase of \$990,775.

This is an important increase in education dollars for Simsbury, not only for the town's children, but for the taxpayers who have been burdened by the growing cost of providing a first-rate education for our children. This will reduce the tax pressure on our local taxpayers, and reduce the burden on them, while adding resources for our children's education. I deeply appreciate the assistance of Governor Rell and O.P.M. Secretary Bob Genuario for their assistance and support in making this increase a reality.



Representative Heagney, his son and coworkers visit with Governor M. Jodi Rell following her State of the State Address.

For Seniors/Veterans

A new law allows towns to freeze property taxes on homes owned by people age 70 or older. Another bill requires homemaker-companion agencies to register with the Department of Consumer Protection and their employees must undergo background checks. Also, new legislation will protect the jobs and finances of National Guard members who are called up for state service such as a natural disasters, just as they would if called up for national service.

The Cost of Energy

Despite a 22% increase on ratepayers having been implemented this year, and power consumers continuing to be gouged by rising costs, the legislative majority blocked a proposal by House Republicans that would reduce the public utilities gross earning tax on electric and power companies. I supported this proposal that would have reduced the gross earnings tax by 41%, and saved ratepayers roughly \$60 million annually. It was defeated on a party-line vote.

There were also attempts to address the spiking cost of gasoline including a proposal to temporarily repeal the 25 cents a gallon state gasoline tax between Memorial Day and Labor Day. These proposals were also defeated by the majority despite a nearly \$700 million budget surplus.

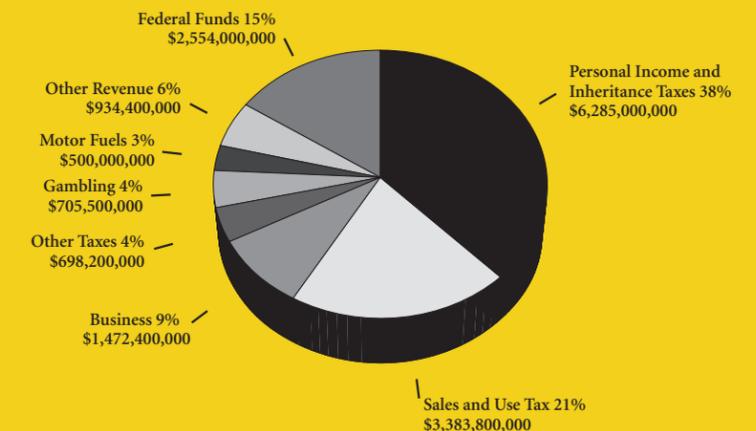
Jobs for the 21st Century

This year I supported a jobs bill that aimed at improving Connecticut's economy, and increasing jobs in the state. I supported a handful of amendments which would have improved the bill. One such amendment would have sped up the property tax relief in the bill for manufacturing equipment, which is scheduled to phase out over five years. The amendments were defeated.

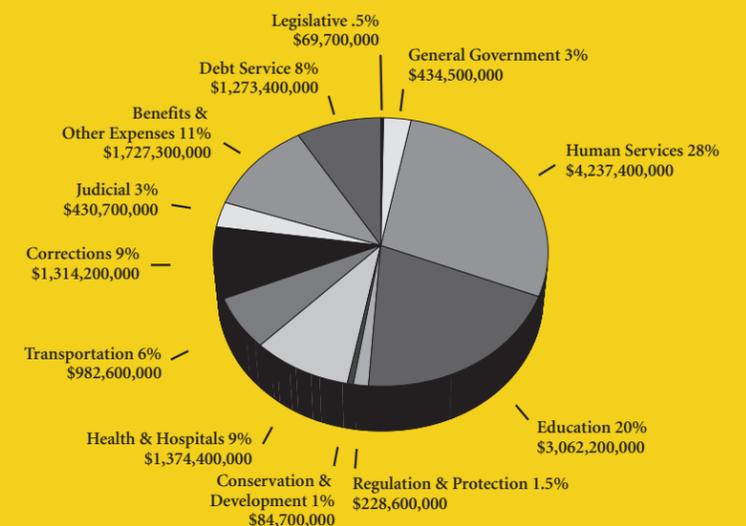
BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2006

The 2006 general fund and the special transportation fund spends \$15.2 billion.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



*In addition to an expected surplus, the difference between expenditures and revenues is due to tax refunds.